



Corbin & Associates, Inc.
Lesson Plan of the Month
(August 2003)

Topic: Marijuana
Target Group: High School
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Objectives:

After this block of instruction the student will be able to:

- Identify and describe marijuana
- Understand how marijuana affects a person and know the symptoms
- Classify the categories and penalties as they relate to the penal code for marijuana
- How to stay away
- What you can do if you have already started

Introduction:

Hello, I am Officer MacAllister and I am here today to speak to you about marijuana. I will instruct you on how to identify the drug and describe it, along with how to recognize it's effect and symptoms. I will also teach you about the marijuana and how it relates to the criminal justice system and the penalties that are levied against a user or one that possesses the illegal drug. We (together) will then demonstrate how to stay away from the drug, and help those that may already be hooked get the needed help to successfully beat the addictive habit.

Statistics:

- I. Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug in the United States and tends to be the first illegal drug teens use.
- II. According to a survey of High School Seniors, while 30.7% used marijuana sometime within the past year, 69.3% did not use.
- III. Being in a room with marijuana smoke can cause a "Contact High" from just breathing.

- IV. In one study, 33% of arrested reckless drivers tested positive for marijuana
- V. Pot impairs driving skills for at least six hours after ingestion. The trace can be detected in a urine test for weeks after the user stops.
- VI. The potency has increased 275% over the last decade.
- VII. One marijuana joint can be as damaging to the lungs as (4) tobacco cigarettes.

Body:

- I. What is marijuana?
 - 1. Green, brown or gray mix of dried leaves, stems, seed and flowers of the Hemp plant or (Cannabis Sativa).
 - 2. Stronger forms are Sinsemilla, Hashish and Hash oil.
 - 3. All forms contain THC and are mind-altering or psychoactive drugs.
 - 4. Also contains more than 400 other chemicals.
 - 5. Slang terms:
 - a. Pot
 - b. Herb
 - c. Weed
 - d. Boom
 - e. Mary Jane
 - f. Gangster
 - g. Chronic
 - h. Bud
 - i. Mota
 - j. Ganga
 - 6. How is it smoked?
 - a. Joint or “Nail”
 - b. Pipe or “Bong”
 - c. Can be mixed with food or tea.
- II. Understand how marijuana affects a person and recognize the symptoms of usage.
 - 1. THC binds to nerve cells in the brain which controls:
 - a. Learning
 - b. Memory
 - c. Integrates senses with emotions and motivations.
 - i) Major break between what user senses and what he does about it.

2. Symptoms include:
 - a. Dizziness or trouble walking
 - b. Things seem silly for no reason
 - c. Bloodshot eyes
 - d. Hard time remembering things that just happened
 - e. Cotton mouth
 - f. Munchies
 - g. Can double heart rate
 - h. Some fall asleep or experience anxiety or paranoia every time they use the drug.

3. Short term effects:
 - a. Trouble with memory, learning
 - b. Problem solving
 - c. Lose coordination
 - d. Senses effected:
 - i) Sight
 - ii) Hearing
 - iii) Touch
 - iv) Time
 - v) Depth is distorted

4. Long term effects:
 - a. Amotivational syndrome
 - i) Lose interest in future
 - ii) Stop caring
 - b. Can take 2 years off pot to regain normal motivation level.
 - c. Increased tolerance
 - i) The need to increase the amount to get the desired effect.

5. Bad reaction:
 - a. Psychotic symptoms
 - b. Need for emergency medical attention.

III. Realize the consequences and penalty:

1. Felony

a. Penalty punishable in prison “Big House”

i) Sales

ii) More than an ounce.

2. Misdemeanor

a. Penalty punishable in county jail and/or fine

3. Infraction

a. Speeding ticket

b. Red light or Bike helmet

i) Fine

IV. How to stay away:

1. Reasons for starting

a. Peer pressure

b. Need to fit in

c. The “I’m Cool” syndrome

d. Want something different

e. Bored

2. Put marijuana out

a. Say “No Thanks”

b. Don’t owe explanation

c. Say you are not interested

d. Make exit “Run Away”

e. Talk with your parents or someone you trust

f. Talk to SRO

Documentation And/Or Sources:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Marijuana: Facts parents need to know.
 - Tips for Teens
 - What you can do about drug use in America.
- Marijuana – Stone Cold Stupid
 - In the Know, Syndister Inc.

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